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BULLETIN OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

THE RECENT GIFT

OF

MR. FRANCIS L. LELAND

ON February 19th, Mr. Francis L. Leland presented the Museum with 1,200 shares of the New York County National Bank, of which he is the President. While it is impossible to state in figures the exact value of this gift, the fact that it at present yields an annual income at the rate of \$40 per share, or \$48,000 in all, shows that it represents to the Museum a well invested fund of more than a million dollars. It is therefore by far the largest gift of money ever made to the Museum by an individual during his lifetime. In other respects it is also unique, for not only was it made entirely without solicitation, but it came as an entire surprise to everybody connected with the Museum. Beyond the fact that he is an Annual Member, Mr. Leland had given no intimation to either Trustees or officials that he was especially interested in its affairs, and the gift was made in the simplest manner possible, through two of the Trustees, who called at his residence in response to a request from him, little suspecting the object of their visit. The certificates of the stock were then handed to them, accompanied by the following note:

N. Y., 19th Feb'y, 1912

J. PIERPONT MORGAN, ESQ.,
Pres. Metropolitan Museum of Art.

DEAR SIR:

I herewith make a gift outright of 1,200 shares of New York County Nat. Bank to the Association without conditions.

Very truly yours,

FRANCIS L. LELAND.

Welcome as this great gift is for itself, it is no less valuable to the Museum as a testimonial of the confidence which is thus expressed in its administration, and as an indication of the interest which is taken in its work by the people of New York.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

AT a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on Monday, February 19, 1912, the following memorial resolution, read by Hon. Joseph H. Choate, was adopted:

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN BIGELOW

TRUSTEE

1886 — 1911

THE Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art desire to put on record the deep regret which they share with the whole community at the death of their late distinguished associate, John Bigelow, who had been for many years a Trustee of the Museum, though the growing infirmities of extreme old age had of late prevented him from taking an active part in its affairs. Mr. Bigelow had long been justly regarded as the foremost private citizen not only of the city, but of the whole country.

As a public-spirited man he had no superior, and gifted by nature with a sound mind in a sound body, which he had carefully nurtured by a strict and never-failing observance of the laws of health, he was enabled for nearly a quarter of a century beyond the ordinary span of human life to keep in constant touch with the progress and expansion of the country, and to influence public opinion by frequent and stirring appeals to the common sense and patriotic spirit of his countrymen. He seemed to have learned that noble art from the example of Benjamin Franklin of whom he was not only the patient and faithful biographer, but a diligent and constant student of his works and letters, with every word of which he seemed to be perfectly familiar. His public service for many years as the representative of his country abroad was of great value and forms an important and honorable chapter in our diplomatic history. As a journalist in association with and in succession to Bryant, he for years maintained the American Press at its highest and best level, and set an example of high thinking

and of public spirit, which ought to have been followed by the press of the whole country to the present day to the great advantage of every public and private interest.

His literary gifts and faculties, so often brought into play for the public benefit and entertainment, were best and finally exhibited in his instructive and valuable autobiography, covering in fact more than fifty years of our national history—an important contribution to our annals, and it is hoped that this great work on which he was closely engaged almost to the day of his death may be completed out of the material which he has left.

As a great citizen of spotless character known of all men, his membership in this Board was of immense value to the Museum, the loss of which cannot easily be made good. By his death the Museum and the City have been deprived of a priceless treasure.

ANNUAL REPORT

THE Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 1911, which was read at the meeting of the Corporation, will be sent to all of the members of the Museum in printed form early in March. Copies of this report will gladly be sent upon application to any subscribers to the Bulletin who may desire them. We quote here the following paragraphs:

The members of the Museum do not receive their only information about its affairs once a year in the form of an annual report, but receive it twelve times a year through our monthly Bulletin. Our annual report, therefore, should be limited to certain information, largely statistical, which has customarily been given in previous annual reports in form for ready comparison with the statements of other years, and to a terse summary in proper perspective of some events that have already been chronicled in the Bulletin.

The events of the Museum year which stand out most prominently in this perspective are the opening of the Egyptian

galleries in ten rooms of our northern Fifth Avenue wing, and the demonstration by their arrangement of the ideal arrangement to which our Museum aspires, historically, educationally, and æsthetically; the four special exhibitions which have been held during the year under our new policy of loan exhibitions, which included Arms and Armor, a memorial exhibition of the works of Winslow Homer, American Colonial Silver, and American Colonial Portraits; the long delayed opening of our lecture hall and the beginning of its use in connection with the public school educational system of the city.

. . .

No one who has at all followed the development of the Museum in recent years can read this report attentively without becoming conscious of several profound impressions.

First and foremost, our Museum no longer appeals merely to the "upper classes"—the educated, the cultured, the rich. It has entered into the life of the people. The poorest child of the public school is welcomed as cordially as the wealthiest amateur and accepts our invitation as eagerly. The Museum has become an integral part of our city's educational system.

Again, the growth of the Museum is becoming symmetrical. There is no longer an overwhelming predominance of the fine arts of painting and sculpture, or a predominance of the fine arts of fashionable periods. All art of all periods, whether in or out of fashion at the moment, is being represented and will be increasingly represented under our present policy. To emphasize the development of our collections on the side of decorative and industrial art is no reflection on the supremacy of the fine arts; it is only to restore to all arts some degree of equilibrium.

Moreover, we are assembling an efficient staff in different departments. We have an organization. We are not depending on any single man, or indeed on any small group of men, for our continued growth.

Another profound impression is the de-